

## 2025 Synod Assembly – Report of the Synod Vice President

Grace and peace to you, faithful servants gathered in assembly!

The Synod Assembly is the highest legislative authority in the synod, and as such, you have some important business to do:

- Call a bishop
- Approve a spending plan/budget,
- Consider resolutions, and
- Elect members of Synod Council and other committees.

While *you* are the highest legislative body, the Synod Council is the board of directors, serving as the interim authority between meetings of the Assembly. As chair of the council, it is my privilege to share with you what we have done on behalf of the synod over the past year.

- In 2022, the Synod Assembly provided guidance to the council that we should review our governing documents, policies, and procedures with special attention to **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility**. This year we have contracted with the Organizing for Mission Network to begin this work in earnest. We will be engaging in training and conducting a number of one-on-one conversations over the next 15 months in pursuit of this goal. Our hope is to create an environment of ongoing discernment regarding our DEIB policies and practices.
- Our Policy Review Committee continues with its comprehensive review of our current policies.
- We have reviewed our grant application and awarding policies to create new and more sustainable ways of funding innovative ministry.
- We continue to empower lay leadership through programs like LiVE (Living into Vocational Engagement). LiVE continues to sponsor several online workshops, bible studies, and in-person retreats.
- We have contracted with a Director of Properties to manage properties that have come into synod ownership and to assist congregations in best practices for stewarding their property as their needs change over time.

I look forward to hearing from the Assembly this year as to what priorities have risen to the surface over the last twelve months.

This will mark my last assembly as Synod Vice President. My second term ends in 2026, and we are not holding a Synod Assembly that year. Instead, we will hold programmatic gatherings. Because the terms of office for the Vice President and Secretary end in a non-assembly year, we will be calling a special meeting of THIS Synod Assembly with the sole purpose of electing these positions and passing an updated budget plan. Please be alert for more information regarding this next spring.

It has been my honor to serve as vice president for the last seven years, and I anticipate my final year to be another one full of joys and challenges. I will be attending Churchwide Assembly this summer and will continue my leadership in the Synod Vice President cadre, facilitating our monthly Zoom meetings. I will also continue to be responsible for approving Region 1 expenditures on behalf of the Region 1 Governing Board, which is made up of the bishops and VPs of Region 1.

When I was elected in 2018, I had no idea what would lie ahead. None of us anticipated having to lead through a (hopefully) once-in-a-lifetime global health emergency. I look back on those years as a constant learning curve. The ways in which we adapted, and the speed with which we did so, constantly amaze me. I have tried to carry those learnings forward so that we could continue to encourage innovation and creative ways of being church in an ever-changing world. I look forward to my final year as your vice president and to the gatherings next spring. It has been such a privilege to serve in synod leadership in many ways over the last twenty or so years. I appreciate the trust you have placed in me and the support I have had as vice president and I anticipate God will find new ways to use my gifts as I transition into the next phase of my life in the church.

Thank you again for your participation in the 2025 Synod Assembly; your leadership is very much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Edgerton, Synod Vice President